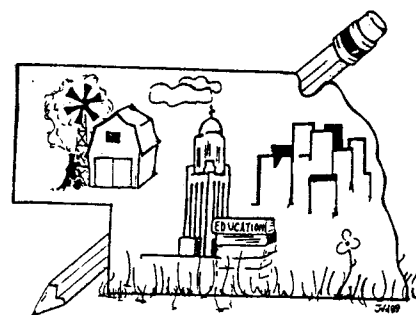


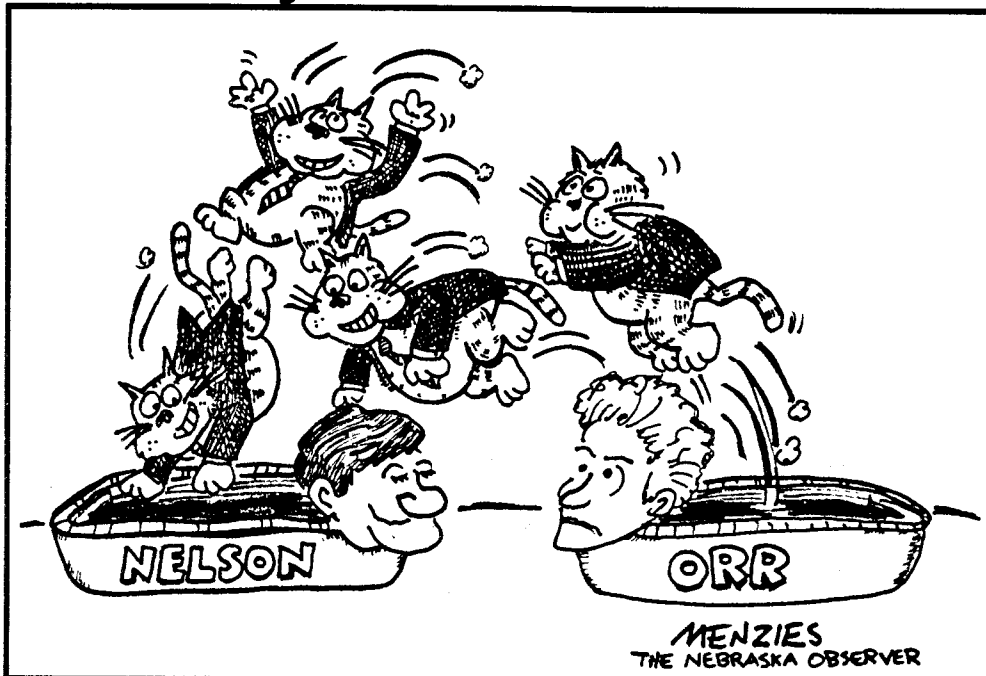
The Nebraska Observer

Vol. 5, No. 11 November 2, 1990



When the Fat Cats Can't Afford to Back a Loser

Yanney, Friends Switch Aid from Orr to Nelson



by Frances Mendenhall

Time was when you could safely bet that a Democrat in any given election would be less beholden to the special interests of business than his or her Republican counterpart, but no more.

Take the Nebraska governor's race, for example. Until early October, it looked as if the campaign dollars would flow from predictable sources to predictable candidates. While certain businesses like the railroads and insurance companies would support both candidates, others, like the high-power financial operations of Mike Yanney, First Tier, and First National Bank, would all go to Republican incumbent Kay Orr, mother of tax breaks for big business.

Orr, however, has suffered at the polls throughout the campaign. In the primary, an unknown Omaha absentee landlord took 31

percent of the Republican vote away from her. Some business donors tried to stay the course for their favorite daughter, remembering her tax package of 1987, and perhaps more importantly, fearing her opponent's criticism of it.

Things had not improved by early October, and previously uncommitted Republican donors began to support Nelson. Valmont's Robert Daugherty chipped in \$10,000 and Robert Masterson and Masterson Properties gave \$2,300. Even faithful Orr supporters began to reassess their interests and switch their financial support to the Nelson camp; First National's Dennis O'Neal, who had donated \$300 to Orr in September, fattened Nelson's war chest by \$2,000 in October.

Yanney Raises \$90,000 (for starters)

The biggest straw in the wind, however,

came on Oct. 26 when financier Mike Yanney hosted a fund-raiser for Nelson at his downtown Omaha office. According to Nelson finance manager Butch Lecuona, it was attended by 150-200 people who have a professional interest in business matters, although he isn't naming names. The event netted \$90,000 for Nelson, and Lecuona believes there is more where that came from. "Fundraising is going very well," he told the Observer, "and business interests involved (in the Nelson campaign) will have a positive impact."

Yanney, a Republican, had, according to the World-Herald, supported Orr in her race in 1986 with contributions of \$11,000, but had not donated for her current bid for reelection.

Sacred Fortunes and Honor

Nobody nowadays expects political donors to pledge honor along with their sacred fortunes; Yanney timed his fund-raiser to postpone reporting—it was held on the first Friday evening *after* the end of the last pre-election filing period—so voters will not know who the individuals are that are jumping on the Nelson bandwagon until after the election. But judging from the happy response in the Nelson campaign, it appears that they have reason to believe a trend is in progress with business bucks increasingly going to their man.

Other shifts in donor loyalty that were revealed in the most recently filed financial forms were: Republican Alan Baer donated \$5,000 to the Nelson campaign in October, but only \$300 to the Orr campaign. First Tier Financial, which had donated \$7,500 to Orr previously this year, switched and dropped \$5,000 into Nelson's coffers. Industrialist Alan

Lozier, who had up to August given \$4,000 in support to Orr, donated \$2,000 to Nelson in October, and none to Orr.

Political analyst Kevin Phillips, a conservative Republican, recently wrote a book about the economics of the Reagan years, and the drop in the standard of living for most Americans. During the same time the number of millionaires tripled. In 1979 corporate CEO's made 29 times the income of the average worker; in 1988 they made 93 times as much. Because the gap is so quickly widening, Phillips predicts a populist counter-revolution that could throw monied interests out of office, a surprising conclusion from such a conservative source.

But if the Nebraska gubernatorial race is at all typical, Democrats are becoming as dependent as Republicans always have been on corporations and the rich for campaign contributions. The counter revolution predicted by Phillips hasn't got a chance among traditional politicians as they now are financed.

Is there anyone left to speak for the common folks?

Can anyone doubt that it is time to reform the way we finance campaigns?

Inside:

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Voting Unattractive, Choices Bad

by A'Jamal-Rashad Byndon

About three weeks before this article was written, the author published a piece in the World-Herald's "Another Point of View" expressing disenchantment with what he felt was hypocrisy in the Ben Nelson campaign. Since the Herald prints very few of his submissions, we at the Observer pointed out to him our sneaking hunch that the appeal of his piece to the editors at our favorite local daily was that a black person was trashing a Democrat. To further confirm our suspicions, The Herald followed A'Jamal's article with an argument by another black, Glenn M. Freeman, to vote Republican.

A'Jamal denied that he had been used, arguing that he really meant to trash *both* parties. To further underscore his point, he wrote the following.

Glenn M. Freeman's editorial ("No-Vote Option is Nonsense, Omaha World-Herald, Oct. 24, 1990) was akin to telling African-Americans they must vote for one politician in each race regardless of stance. This implies a need for laws forcing people to vote. Currently, as in both the national and local elections, the choice is narrowed down to one rat over another. The campaigns are devoid of significant issues and, as most people are aware, in American politics the winners are

Continued on page 11

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No Need to Use All Possible Votes In an At-Large Election

by Frances Mendenhall

Douglas County has three governmental bodies, O.P.P.D.; M.U.D.; and the County Board of Supervisors; that are controlled by advantaged white males. Not coincidentally, the members of these three boards are elected at-large.

Few people actually do it because it is very boring, but if you were to drop in on a typical meeting of the Douglas County Board, you would see items voted on with very little debate. It is hard to gain an understanding of whose interests are being served and what issues are really at stake. That is because the real decision making is done before the meeting takes place. This "old boys" network in action is surely not what the authors of Nebraska's open meeting laws had in mind. It is also a reflection of the systemic effect that at-large elections have in electing incumbent white males with money and name recognition.

In the Legislative session before last Sen. Ernie Chambers passed a bill mandating district elections in Douglas County, but Gov. Orr vetoed it. The bill didn't come up at all last session.

So, on the ballot in November voters in Douglas County will be voting at-large for all three of these boards. Some very important issues relating to the environment, preservation of what's left of Omaha's historic buildings, health care, nuclear power, conservation, and recycling are at stake. It would be nice to be assured of a way to elect independent people who had a broad constituency. With that in mind, I made up some rules for myself about voting in at-large elections.

First, do not vote for incumbents unless they are extremely valuable and at risk of losing. They will probably win without your vote anyway, and every vote for an incumbent weakens the vote you cast for any challenger.

Second, it is not required that you cast all possible votes. It is not even one bit unpatriotic to undervote. For example, the ballot for Douglas County Board now has six names on it, but one has withdrawn since the ballots

were printed. That leaves only five candidates. The ballot instructs you to vote for up to three, but there might not be three that you like. Do not weaken an enlightened vote by voting for someone you're not sure about.

Third, never vote on name recognition alone. This is almost certainly a vote influenced by racism, sexism, and elitism. The M.U.D. ballot is a good example of this. It has many old Omaha family names on it, but the potential for confusing voters is high. If you do not have real issues to support voting for a certain person, better not to put a mark beside his/her name.

Nationwide there is a widespread mood of anti-incumbency. A recent election in Oklahoma limited terms of elected officials to 12 years. Another movement "THRO" short for "Throw the Hypocritical Rascals Out" placed an ad in the World-Herald trying to raise money and consciousness to vote every incumbent senator and congressperson out of office. It seems likely that the election in Nebraska will reflect some of the same spirit, because of the presence on the ballot of two tax limiting issues; the kind of voter drawn to such an election is probably the same kind of person who would want to sack an incumbent, any incumbent. There is a good chance that by adding an enlightened vote to the existing forces of anti-incumbency that some real alternative candidates can be put in office.

MY MISSION IN LIFE

**1 TO AFFLICT THE COMFORTABLE
as publisher of the Nebraska Observer.**

**2 TO COMFORT THE AFFLICTED
as Frances Mendenhall, D.D.S.**

*If your teeth are in need of comforting,
please call for an appointment.*

Frances Mendenhall

**New Address:
1325 N. Saddle Creek**

**Same Phone
551-2629**

Observer Deadlines

The next issue of the Nebraska Observer will be published November 29. Story ideas are due November 16. Copy is due November 21.

We will publish again January 2. Copy is due December 28

Sign me up
for the Observer!

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Orr Jumped Ahead to Shape Plan For Dump

Most Governors Stalled, Kept Dumps Out

by William Robbins
Special to The New York Times

OMAHA -- By dragging their feet or challenging the Federal Government, several governors have been able to avoid the political pitfalls built into a 10-year-old Federal requirement that they either develop storage sites for nuclear wastes or join with other states that will.

But Gov. Kay A. Orr of Nebraska has jumped ahead and helped shape a plan to put radioactive wastes from five states in the sparsely populated Boyd County in the northern part of her state. The plan has met growing opposition from that county, and to a lesser extent from other places throughout that state. The issue could cause political difficulties for Orr, a first-term Republican who is up for reelection in November.

Two governors, James J. Blanchard of Michigan and Mario M. Cuomo of New York, appear to have improved their political capital by fighting the law that created the program. They and other opponents of the law have been helped by a reduction in waste generated, a result of new practices.

Some experts say the problems can be solved with fewer repositories than the dozen or so sites now envisioned for waste with low-level radioactivity.

'No M'Orr Nukes'

For Orr, a sign brandished by a protester as the Governor campaigned in northeastern Nebraska the other day summed up the problem she faces after backing construction of a nuclear waste dump in Boyd County. "Hey, Kay, Don't Dump on Mother Earth," the sign said. "Save Our Children -- No M'Orr Nukes."

The only dumps now licensed to receive low-level wastes are in Hanford, Wash., Beatty, Nev., and Barnwell, S.C. Under pressure from their three home states, Congress enacted the Low Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act of 1980. The act called for each state to find ways to deal with its own low-level waste, either by developing depositories of their own or by joining interstate compacts that would jointly find and develop a site.

So far, 42 states have joined interstate compacts. Of the others, Massachusetts, New York and Texas have elected to go it alone. But so far sites have been chosen and applications filed for a license to construct and operate a nuclear waste storage site in only two states, California and Nebraska, and none have a license approved.

When political problems over such sites develop they generally start with designation of a "host state," the member of each compact that will get the first repository and receive the waste from the other states. When that dump is closed, after 20 or 30 years, another will take its turn as the host state.

For California, the first to file for a license

as the host state for the Southwestern Compact, the political consequences have been minimal.

A group called People Against Radioactive Dumping has managed to extend the public comment period on the assessment of the site's environmental impact, and local opposition groups have filed a Federal court suit seeking to block development. But the issue has attracted little attention in the campaign for governor between former Mayor Dianne Feinstein of San Francisco, the Democratic candidate, and Senator Pete Wilson, the Republican nominee.

In Nebraska, chosen in 1987 as the host state for the Central Interstate Compact, which includes Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma, it has been a different matter. In acquiescing to the designation, Governor Orr imposed a condition that no site would be chosen without local consent. But later she said there would be "a great danger" in letting the voters of a county decide.

No one pretends that the problem is the top political issue either in Nebraska or in other states facing the need to build low-level nuclear sites. But it has created problems that a governor locked in a tight race does not need.

Primary Results Cited

In Nebraska's recent primary election, Boyd County, chosen for the region's nuclear depository, gave Orr's little-known opponent, Mort Sullivan, an Omaha businessman, 64 percent of the Republican vote. She also lost two other counties, both of which had once been considered for the repository.

Only two states, California and Nebraska, have filed applications for licenses to construct and operate a nuclear waste storage site.

In 15 of the state's 90 other counties, she received a majority but less than 60 percent; she won the remaining 75 counties handily.

But in a recent public opinion poll Orr trailed her Democratic opponent, Ben Nelson, a lawyer who won a narrow victory in the primary, by eight percentage points.

The Governor has struggled for more than two years to lift a low approval rating that has dogged her since a revamping of the state's tax structure brought income tax increases in many categories. She has sponsored legislation to correct what she said was a mistake, but many people in this heavily Republican

state still criticize her for it.

Governor Is Optimistic

In an interview here Orr expressed confidence she would overtake Nelson, and said the nuclear question was "not an issue that is raised with great frequency."

Both Republicans and Democrats agree the waste site has less significance the farther one gets from Boyd County. But in a tight race, many say, it can produce an important slice of the voting.

"The good news is we win Boyd County," said one of Nelson's supporters. "The bad news is Boyd County is only 3,000 people."

Parker Shipley, a conservative Republican who is a former State Drug Commissioner, said, "It's a negative for us."

Michigan, the host state for the Midwest Interstate Compact, which includes Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana and Ohio, was designated despite serious environmental concerns over its widespread wetlands. Opponents contend that radioactivity is bound to leak into the environment because it will outlive any container material.

"We're like a giant sponge sitting in a tub," said Ellen Beal, an Ingham County Commissioner who heads a group called Don't Waste Michigan.

New York Search Narrowed

New York faces one of the nation's more difficult nuclear waste problems, but so far it has not become an issue in the race between Governor Cuomo, a Democrat, and his Republican opponent, Pierre A. Rinfret.

The three states that have been accepting New York's radioactive waste have threatened to stop unless the state shows more progress in establishing a permanent site. New York has narrowed its search to two counties in the western part of the state, but after vehement protests there the state has postpone exploratory testing.

Governor Cuomo has filed a Federal court suit contesting the constitutionality of the nuclear waste policy act.

Study Says NonWhites More At Risk For Burglary,

The Center for Public Affairs Research found in its *Omaha Conditions Survey: 1990* that nonwhites were almost three times as likely to have been burglarized as whites.

A full report is available from the Center.

Yet another suit has been filed in Texas, where Hudspeth County, next door to El Paso, has been chosen for a low-level waste depository. But no statewide candidate has made the action a political issue.

Illinois Study Called Flawed

In Illinois, another host state, anti-nuclear forces have attacked what they call a flawed site-selection process, and final approval of a tentative site in Clark County, near the Indiana line, has been delayed by questions about an aquifer that may link the site to the water supply of Martinsville, a city of about 1,300 people in eastern Illinois.

But Mike Lawrence, press secretary for Jim Edgar, the Republican candidate for governor, said, "That doesn't seem to be an issue between the two candidates."

Tempers still run high in North Carolina over its designation as the host state for the Southeast Compact, but with no race for governor there this year and a site still to be chosen from among several, in three counties, the anger has no focal point yet.

In other states, progress in finding sites has been so slow that it has generated little political controversy.

As the number of sites grows, the volume of waste has been declining, a result of new practices and technologies for reducing waste volume, including incineration and compaction. From a total of 2.7 million cubic feet in 1983, the volume of such waste dropped nearly 50 percent, to 1.4 million cubic feet, by 1988.

As a result, some experts now say it is inefficient for the nation to have more than three or four repositories for low-level radioactive waste. And that view has led some anti-nuclear leaders to hope the problems may diminish.

"We would like to see the whole system just fall apart," said Beal, the leader of the Michigan anti-nuclear group. "What we need is a united national nuclear policy."

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a r t e x h i b i t s

Bemis Building a Library

The Bemis Foundation's Reference and Art Education Library is growing, but still needs over 200 art books to better serve the local art community.

The library is being established to encourage study and research in visual arts, and books are being selected based on quality and relevance.

The newly expanded and easily accessible library will be open to the public daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and will include a video library and slide registry.

To help complete the library holdings, a buffet of creative dishes prepared by Bemis artists will be served with wine from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10. Admission is \$10.

Gallery Listings**Adam Whitney Gallery**

8725 Shamrock Road, Omaha
393-1051
Hours: 10-5 Monday through Saturday

Anderson O'Brien Gallery

8724 Pacific St.
Through Oct. 6: Works by Barry Monohon.

Antiquarium Gallery

1215 Harney Street, Omaha
341-8077

Artists' Cooperative Gallery

405 So. 11th Street, Omaha
342-9617
Hours: Wed.-Thurs. 11-5; Fri. & Sat. 11-10; Sunday noon-5.
Nov. 3, 7-10 p.m., opening for November show.
Through November 25: Margie Schimenti, photographs and constructions; Ulla Gallagher, photographs; Robin Davis, drawings and paintings.

Bellevue College Gallery

Galvin Road at Harvell Drive, Bellevue
293-3732
Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. M-F; 9-5 Sat.; 1-5 Sun.

Bemis New Gallery

614 So. 11th, Omaha
341-7130
Hours: 11-5 daily.
Nov. 10: 7-10 p.m. "Art Book Affair," a fund-raiser for the Bemis Library. \$10 per person.
Nov. 15: Bemis Slide Lecture
Nov. 17 - Jan. 6: "Introductions: Mixed Media"
Dec. 13: Bemis Slide Lecture

Burkholder Project

719 P Street, Lincoln
477-3305

Hours: 10-5 Monday thru Saturday
Holiday Gifts Show.

Cathedral Arts Project

St. Cecilia's Cathedral
701 No. 40th Street
558-3100
Hours 1-3:30 p.m. Thursay-Sunday and by appointment.

Council Bluffs Artist's Loft

407 W. Broadway, Council Bluffs
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri; noon-4 p.m. Sat.

Creighton Fine Arts Gallery

Creighton University
27th and California, Omaha
280-2509
Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-4 Sunday.
Through Nov. 18: Littleton Alston
Nov. 28 - Dec. 15: Fall BFA Thesis Show
Jan. 23 - March 8: Chris Weaver
March 20 - April 12: Faculty Show
April 17 - April 28: Spring BFA Thesis Show
May 1 - May 8: Juried Student Show

Eyesound Gallery

105 N. 50th

Gallery 72

2709 Leavenworth, Omaha 345-3347
Through Nov. 5: "Gordon Cook: Twenty Etchings"
Nov. 9: 7:30-10 p.m. opening for "Sonoma State University Four" show.
Through Dec. 3: "The Sonoma State University Four" show featuring work by Kurt Kemp, Bob Nugent, Mark Perlman and Shane Weare.

Garden of the Zodiac

Old Market Passageway, 1042 Howard, Omaha.
341-1877

Haydon Gallery

335 N. 8th, Hardy Building, Lincoln
475-5421
Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5.
Nov. 2: 7-9 p.m. Roger Bruhn opening.
Through Nov. 24: "Dreams in Dry Places," by Roger Bruhn.

Haymarket Art Gallery

119 So. 9th Street, Lincoln
475-1061
Hours: 10-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat. Mondays by appointment.
Nov. 4-25: Daniel Driggs, acrylics & serigraphs; John Dennison, stoneware.

Hillmer Art Gallery

College of St. Mary, 1901 So. 72nd Street, Omaha

399-2621

Hours: 1-5 daily except Friday.

Iowa Western Community College Fine Arts Gallery

2700 College Road, Council Bluffs
325-3352
Hours: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Jewish Community Center

333 So. 132nd St., Omaha
334-8200
Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. M-Th.; 8-5 Fri.; 1-7 Sat.; 1-7 Sun.

Joslyn Art Museum

2200 Dodge, Omaha
342-3300
Hours: 10-5 Tues., Wed., Fri. & Sat.; 10-9 Thurs.; 1-5 Sunday.
Admission: \$2 for adults, \$1 under 12.
Free Saturday before noon and to members.
Through Nov. 4: "Midlands Invitational 1990."
Through Dec. 16: "The Modern Pictorialism of D.J. Ruzicka."
Nov. 17-Jan. 13: "Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indian."
Nov. 13-March 3: "Recent Acquisitions"

Local Artists Exchange

Standard Blue
1415 Harney, Omaha
Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri; noon-4 p.m. Sat & Sun.

Metro Arts Artspace

601 So. 16th Street
341-7910
Hours: Mon-Fri 9-4 or by appointment.
Through Nov. 30: "Isabella Threlkeld and Steven Polchert" two-dimensional work and pottery.

Museum of Nebraska Art

24th and Central Ave., Kearney
(308) 234-8559
Hours: 1-5 Tuesday thru Saturday

Passageway Gallery

417 So. 11th, Omaha
341-1910
Hours: 11-5 M-W; 11-9 Thurs.; 11-10 Fri. & Sat.; 12-5 Sun.

Photographer's Gallery, Inc.

4831 Dodge Street, Omaha
551-5731
Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 1-5 Sun.; Closed Sat.; or by appointment anytime.

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery

12th and R Streets, UNL Campus, Lincoln
472-2461
Hours: Tues. & Wed. 10-5; Sun. 2-9; Thurs.-Sat. 10-5 and 7-9; closed Mon.

Through Nov. 25: "Master Prints from a Nebraska Collection."

13th Street Gallery

1264 So. 13th Street, Omaha
Mixed media

University of Nebraska at Omaha Gallery

616 S. 11th Street (second floor in CAT)
Hours: 10-5 Monday-Friday
Through Nov. 16: UNO Student Exhibition
Nov. 26 - Dec. 21: UNO BFA Thesis Exhibition

Art Institute of Chicago

Michigan at Adams
Chicago, Ill.
(312) 443-3600
Hours: 10:30 -4:30 Mon., W, Wed.-Fri.; 10:30-8 Tues.; 10-5 Sat.; noon-5 Sun.
Suggested Admission: \$5; seniors, students, \$2.50.
Continuing: Ellsworth Kelly. Six paintings conceived especially for the museum's Sculpture Court.
Through Nov. 25: "New Acquisitions: Early 20th-Century American Modernism."
Through Dec. 31: "Chicago Skyscrapers: Selections from the Permanent Collection."
Through Nov. 25: "From Poussin to Matisse: The Russian Taste for French Painting."
Through Dec. 2: "The New Vision: Photography Between the World Wars, Ford Motor Company Collection at The Metropolitan Museum of Art."
Through Jan. 6: "18th Century Worcester Porcelain"
Continuing: "The Art of Music: A Salute to the Centennial Season of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra."
Through Jan. 2: "Ed Paschke: Paintings," and "Drawings by Ed Paschke."
Nov. 21 - March 31, 1991: "Coverlets and Quilts."

Des Moines Art Center

4700 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa
(515) 277-4405
Hours: 11-5 T, W, F, Sat.; 11-9 Thurs.; noon-5 Sun.; closed Mon.

Museum of Contemporary Art

237 E. Ontario
Chicago, Ill.
(312) 280-5161
Hours: 10-5 Tues.-Sat.; noon-5 Sunday

Museum of Contemporary Photography

Columbia College
600 So. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill.
(312) 663-5554

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a r e a e v e n t s

EVENTS

Through Nov. 11

Fall Auto Tour of DeSoto Wildlife Refuge, near Missouri Valley, Iowa, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Call (712) 642-4121 for information.

Nov. 1-21

No Bake Bake Sale at the Great Plains Black Museum, 2213 Lake Street. For information call 345-2212.

Nov. 2-4

Midwest Autorama at the Omaha Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol. Call 444-4750 for information.

Nov. 8-11

Autumn Festival of arts and crafts from 20 states at the Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol, Thur 1-10 p.m.; Fri 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sat 9 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sun 10 a.m.-6 p.m. General admission is \$4.50, seniors and children \$3.50. Call 444-4750 for more information.

Nov. 11

Annual Open House at the 20 Talents Gallery, 101 W. Mission in Bellevue. Noon to 4 p.m. Free admission.

Nov. 11

Children's Health, Safety and Fitness Fair 1-5 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 333 So. 132nd Street.

Nov. 12

Tom Clancy dinner at Ak-Sar-Ben to benefit the business section at the Omaha Public Library. \$50 per person. Call Vicki Krecek at 346-5000 for more information.

Nov. 14

Christmas Caravan, sponsored by the Assistance League of Omaha, is a tour of five Fairacres homes decorated for the holidays. Includes a boutique and luncheon. Hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Call 333-7494 or 391-4122 for ticket information.

Nov. 15-18

Ballet Omaha Holiday Mart at Ak-Sar-Ben featuring unique holiday gifts. Fri & Sat 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission is \$4.

Nov. 17-Dec. 23

Gingerbread House Display at the Mormon Pioneer Cemetery visitor's center, 3215 State Street, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. Free admission.

Nov. 19-Dec. 31

Crook House Christmas Sensation. The restored Victorian home at 30th and Fort is decorated for the holidays. Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun 1-4 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving and Christmas day. Adults \$3, children \$1.50.

Nov. 20-Dec. 30

Christmas at the Dodge House. Enjoy the historic General Dodge House, 3rd & Story in Council Bluffs, decked out for the holidays. Open Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun 1-5 p.m. General admission is \$2.50.

Nov. 23

"Old German Christmas" at the Sautter House Historical Museum, 84th and 3rd Street in Papillion includes music and shops beginning at 6:30 p.m. Free admission.

Nov. 24&25

Nebraska Flea Market & Collectors Show at the Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol. Hours are Sat 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission.

Nov. 27-Dec. 2

Ice Capades Family Show at Ak-Sar-Ben, 66th & Center. Performances through Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and on Dec. 1 at 10:30 a.m. & 3 p.m.; Dec. 2 at 2 & 6 p.m. Call 556-2305 for ticket information.

Nov. 29

An Evening with Maya Angelou at the Creighton University Fitness Center, a free event at 7 p.m. Call 280-2295 for more information.

Nov. 30-Dec. 1

A Madrigal Dinner at the UNO Milo Bail Student Center at 7 p.m. Call 554-2979 for information.

Nov. 30-Dec. 2

Dickens in the Market, continuous activities and entertainment in the Old Market area, around 11th & Howard. Fri 6-9 p.m.; Sat & Sun noon-5 p.m.

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

Nov. 1-April 30

"The Way to Independence: Memories of a Hidatsa Indian Family" at the Western Heritage Museum, 801 S. 10th Street.

Nov. 17-Jan. 13

"Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indian" at the Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge.

Through Nov. 4

"Midlands Invitational 1990 Painting and Sculpture," at Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge.

Through Nov. 30

Isabella Threlkeld and Steven Polchert artwork on display at the Metro Arts Artspace, 601 S. 16th. Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Through Dec. 1

"Little House Under Construction" at the Omaha Children's Museum, 500 S. 20th Street. Call 342-6164 for information.

Through Dec. 16

"The Modern Pictorialism of D.J. Ruzicka" at the Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge.

FILM

New Cinema

The New Cinema is back in business with its own theater at 1514 Davenport. Showtimes are Friday and Saturday at 5:20, 7:30 and 9:40, and Sunday at 3 p.m. Admission is \$4, \$3.50 for seniors and students. November films are:

Nov 2-4

"Queen of Hearts," a 1989 British film by John Amiel.

Nov. 9-11 & 16-18

"Babette's Feast," a 1987 Danish film by Gabriel Axel.

Nov. 23-25 & Nov. 30-Dec.2

"Brightness," a Mali film by Soueymane Cisse.

Nov. 1-3 & 7-11

"A Tribute to New Day Films," featuring filmmakers Liane Brandon and James Klein in person. Call 1-472- 5353 for schedule. At the Sheldon Film Theater, 12th & R in Lincoln.

Nov. 4

"Yaaba," at the Sheldon Film Theater, 12th & R in Lincoln, 3, 5, 7 & 9 p.m.

Nov. 11

"My Life as a Dog," presented at Joslyn Art Museum's Witherspoon Concert Hall at 2 & 4:30 p.m., \$3.50 general admission.

Nov. 15-17 & 22-25

"Ariel," a 1988 Finnish film by Aki Kaurismaki. At the Sheldon Film Theater, 12th & R in Lincoln at 7 & 9 p.m. and matinees Sat at 1 & 3 p.m. and Sun at 3 & 5 p.m. No showing on Thanksgiving Day.

Nov. 18

"Winter Ade," a 1988 East German film. At the Sheldon Film Theater, 12th & R in Lincoln at 3, 5, 7 & 9 p.m.

MUSIC & DANCE

Nov. 3

Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra presents "A Little Night Music from Mozart" at 7 p.m. at the UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center.

Nov. 3

Die Meistersingers perform works by Nebraskans at 8 p.m. at Westside Community Church. General admission is \$8. Call 496- 7885 for ticket information.

Nov. 4

Bagels & Bach Sunday concert series at Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge, features music and a light brunch. Call 342-3300 for more information.

Nov. 6

Sheri Nichols interprets show tunes and songs of the '30s and '40s. In concert at Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge, at 11 a.m. General admission is \$12.

Nov. 8 & 10

Omaha Symphony in concert with cellist Yehuda Hanani at the Orpheum Theater at 8 p.m. Call 342-3560 for ticket information.

Nov. 14

Kalichstein, Laredo and Robinson Trio perform at Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge, at 8 p.m. Admission is \$20, \$10 for students. Call 551-4805 for ticket information.

Nov. 16 & 17

Omaha Symphony Superpops in concert with Ray Charles at the Orpheum Theater at 8 p.m. both nights, and 2 p.m. on Sat. For ticket information call 342-3560.

Nov. 18

"Autumn Leaves," a band concert by the Nebraska Wind Symphony at the UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center, 63rd & Dodge, at 3 p.m. Admission is \$5, \$3 seniors/students.

Nov. 29 & Dec. 1

Omaha Symphony in concert with pianist Peter Serkin at 8 p.m. at the Orpheum Theater. Call 342-3560 for ticket information.

SPORTS

The Omaha Lancers play U.S. Hockey League games at Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum, 66th & Center, starting at 7:05 p.m. For ticket information call 556-7825. Home games for November and December are:

Nov. 2: vs. Sioux City

Nov. 9: vs. Dubuque

Nov. 10: vs. Rochester

Nov. 23: vs. Thunder Bay

Nov. 24: vs. Madison

The Omaha Racers play professional basketball at the Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum, 66th & Center, starting at 7:05 p.m. For ticket information call 551-5151. Home games for November and December are:

Nov. 11 vs. Rapid City Thrillers

Nov. 15 vs. Quad City Thunder

Events continued next page

Events

Continued from previous page

Nov. 17 vs. Wichita Falls Texans

Nov. 21 vs. Yakima Sunkings

Nov. 25 vs. Tulsa Fastbreakers

Nov. 17

Boxing Tournament at Millard Social Hall.
Call Ray at 341-9495 for information.

Nov. 23-24

1990 Big Eight Volleyball Tournament at the Omaha Civic Auditorium, 18th and Capitol.

THEATER

Nov. 1-Dec. 1

"The Boys Next Door" at the Omaha Community Playhouse, 69th & Cass. Curtain Thur-Sat at 8 p.m. and Sun at 2 & 4:30 p.m. Call 553-0800 for ticket information.

Nov. 8-11 & 15-18

"The Lady's Not for Burning" at the Creighton University Performing Arts Center, 30th and Burt, 8 p.m. weekdays and Sat; 2:30 Sun. For tickets call 280-2509.

Through Nov. 10

"Airlooms" by Virginia Glasgow Koste at the Circle Theater, performed at Vidlak's Cafe, 6064 Maple. Dinner at 7 p.m., show at 8 p.m. Dinner and show \$12-\$13, show only \$7-\$8. Call 553-4715 for information.

Through Nov. 25

"Nights at the Round Table" at the Firehouse Dinner & Theatre, 11th & Jackson Street. Tue-Sat dinner at 6 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. Sun dinner at noon and 5 p.m., show at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. Wed dinner at 11 a.m. show at 12:30 p.m. Admission ranges from \$12-\$18.50 for show only, \$20-\$24.50 for dinner and show. Call 346-8833 for information.

Through Nov. 4

"The Colored Museum" at the Center Stage, 30th and R Street. A series of comedy sketches with music. Shows Fri & Sat at 8 p.m.; Sun at 3 p.m. Call 733-5777 for information.

Through Nov. 11

"Deathtrap" is at the Omaha Community Playhouse, 69th & Cass Street. Showtimes 8 p.m. Tue-Sat, 2:30 & 6 p.m. Sun. General admission \$10 weekdays, \$13 weekends. Call 553-0800 for reservations.

Through Jan. 19

"My One and Only" at the Upstairs Dinner Theater, 221 S. 19th Street. The George Gershwin musical comedy shows at 6 p.m. Thur-Sat and at noon on Wed & Sun. Includes dinner buffet. Call 344-7777 for reservations.

Through Nov. 18

"The Chicago Gypsies" at the Emmy Gifford Children's Theater, 3504 Center. Admission is \$8, and performances are Fri at 7 p.m.; Sat and Sun at 2 p.m. Call 345-4849 for ticket information.

Nov. 23-Dec. 30

"Madeline" at the Emmy Gifford Children's Theater, 3504 Center. Admission is \$8, and performances are Thur-Sat at 7 p.m. with matinees Sat & Sun at 2 p.m. Call 345-4849 for tickets.

Nov. 23-Dec. 22

"A Christmas Carol" at the Omaha Community Playhouse, 69th & Cass. Show times are 8 p.m. Tue-Sat; Sun 2 & 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Call 553-0800 for tickets.

Nov. 25-Dec. 3

"Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," at the Firehouse Dinner & Theatre, 11th & Jackson Street. Tue-Sat dinner at 6 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. Sun dinner at noon and 5 p.m., show at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. Wed dinner at 11 a.m. show at 12:30 p.m. Admission ranges from \$12-\$18.50 for show only, \$20-\$24.50 for dinner and show. Call 346-8833 for information.

Nov. 29-Dec. 16

"Pickwick's Holiday," presented by the Grande Olde Players, 701 S. 39th Street. Performances Thur-Sat at 8 p.m. and Sun at 2 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for students and seniors. Call 391-7888 for information.

Art

Continued from page 4

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

4525 Oak Street
Kansas City, Mo.
(816) 561-4000
Hours: 10-5 Tues.-Sat.; 1-5 Sunday.
Admission: \$3 adults; \$1 students.
Permanent collection free on Sat.
Through Nov. 25: "Jacques Lipchitz: A Retrospective."
Through Nov. 25: "Jim Dine: Glyptoteck Drawings"
Through Dec. 2: "A Spectrum of Innovation: Color in American Printmaking 1890-1960."
Dec. 16 - Feb. 10, 1991: "The Modern Poster: The Museum of Modern Art."

Peace Museum

430 W. Erie
Chicago, IL
(312) 440-1860
Hours: noon to 5 daily; noon to 8 Thursday
Permanent Exhibits: "The Unforgettable Fire," drawings by survivors of atomic bombings' "The Ribbon," textile art on the themes of life and hope.

Sioux City Art Center

513 Nebraska Street
Sioux City, Iowa

Terra Museum of American Art

666 North Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL ZIP
(312) 664-3939
Hours: Tues. noon to 8; Wed. - Sat. 10-5; Sunday noon to 5

Walker Gallery

Vineland Place
Minneapolis, Minn.
(612) 375-7622
(612) 375-7636 Recording
Permanent: Cowles Conservatory: Horticultural installation and "Standing Glass Fish" by Gehry.



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Baby Born With Pencils in Hands

An eight pound, baby girl was born to Nebraska Observer cartoonist John Menzies and his wife Theresa. The baby, who arrived on October 11 at 6:36 p.m. immediately grabbed a nearby paper towel and began sketching the delivery room personnel.

Her mother, although experienced in the procedures surrounding birth as well as the

unique traits of children born to talented parents, was not expecting a cartoonist.

"I wondered what that sharp poking was," said Theresa.

The baby told her parents to name her Tess Ann, which they dutifully did. After that she began to chow down on the handiest nutrition, and quickly put on another one pound,

seven ounces.

Tess was surprised at the rude sounds made by other newborns. Because she didn't scream like a proper neonate, the doctor smacked her and demanded that she cry.

At that point she was heard to say, "Come on, get serious."

Bush Wages War to Cover For Record Reagan Debt

by Norris Alfred

During Ronald Reagan's eight years in the White House the United States Treasury was looted by his administration. The budget deficit increased from about \$75 billion, which he campaigned against as horrendous in winning his first four-year term, to an annual rate of about \$250 billion. With much smooth talk, and appearing honest enough to be put in charge of a savings and loan scam, he had even promised to wipe out that \$75 billion deficit he was saddled with when he took over the Oval Office from Jimmy Carter, and on top of that balance future budgets. He would do this by lowering income taxes (government revenue) by 10 percent per year for three years. He got 25 percent of it. The third year Congress began to realize they were being taken to the cleaners by the U.S. Treasury looters and would only give the popular president half the third 10 percent. Nevertheless, Ronald Reagan was regarded by his Republican supporters as an early substitute for the Second Coming, if not the Real McCoy.

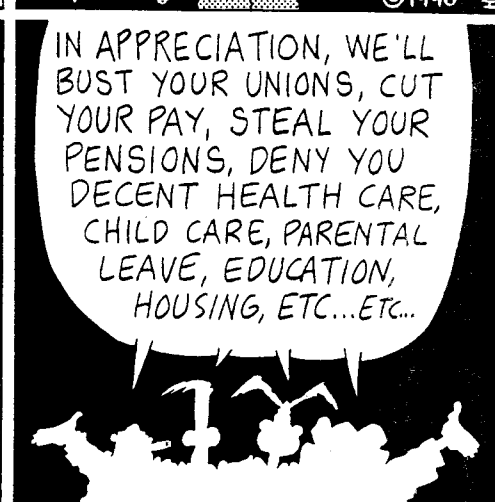
What that 25 percent reduction, plus other

fiscal goodies, managed to accomplish for those with the mostest was a doubling of the U.S. debt from \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion in four years. That looked so good to everyone who would have had to pay more taxes and didn't need to, that he held to the course (steady as she goes deeper into debt) and ended his eight-year reign by adding another \$1 trillion-plus to what the nation's future generations must pay -- at least the interest, never mind the principal.

This debt is created by selling government bonds. That means borrowing money from U.S. citizens and their financial institutions. Selling bonds to other governments and their institutions became an even more lucrative way to raise the needed cash to operate our federal bureaucracy, pay the bills and even, lately, pay interest on bonds already sold.

The popular Ronald Reagan left the White House after eight years, leaving the place a financial wreck. The national debt was more than \$3 trillion, and private debt wore out computers trying to total it. The Second Coming

Continued on page 11



Cuts in Ag Supports Threaten to Devastate Agriculture

by Ellen Condon

The 1990 Farm Bill policies are changing to a new "triple base" system. This system, initiated by President Bush and congressional budget negotiators, allows farmers to still receive subsidies but on fewer acres. Acres not subsidized could be used for planting other crops.

During the crop years of 1992 to 1995 this system will be implemented at a rate of reduction at 15 percent the number of acres on which producers could draw deficiency payments, which will save the U.S. \$5.8 billion at the expense of the farmer. The triple base system will allow a farmer the first base, or an "acreage base," of land that can be subsidized. In order to control output, some of the land from that base is required to be idled. This idled land creates the second base, called a "permitted base." A third "payment base" will cut the number of subsidized acres with a pre-determined percentage. The subsidy cuts made by the third "payment base" would replace reduction of commodity target prices over the next five years.

The difference between permitted and payment base acres could be used by a farmer to plant alternative crops. The choices depend on the region of the United States in which the farmer lives. Midwestern farmers can plant soybeans, but an increase in productivity of soybeans could also hurt because it would lower prices. In other areas of the country, such as the south, farmers could suffer because the region could be too arid for an alternative crop.

The system will cut \$13 billion from farm program spending. This would be taken from

the \$55 billion estimated for the five-year 1990 farm bill. The triple base system would render 3.5 percent of the deficit reduction to agriculture, which only is responsible for eight-tenths of 1 percent of the federal budget.

Because of the depressed farm economy during the 1980s, the federal government put \$26 billion into agriculture. Since then, government payments have fallen to \$11 billion. However, many politicians still emphasize the earlier financial expenditures. Politicians also are aware that the largest farms are receiving the greater part of the subsidies, in view of the fact that they produce the greatest share.

International Farm Trade Discussed

Focus on international changes in farming policies are being debated over currently by the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade committee. This committee, formed at the end of World War II, held its primary focus on

The triple base system would render 3.5 percent of the deficit reduction to agriculture, which only is responsible for eight-tenths of 1 percent of the federal budget.

manufacturing. GATT now wants to address farm issues from a trade standpoint. Reducing production in developed nations by withdrawal of government income support is the suggested solution for the problems of

overproduction and trade tensions. Aart de Zeeuw, chairman of the GATT Agricultural Negotiating group, made the proposal, which is comparable to a 1989 proposal of the U.S.

Carla Hills, the U.S. Trade Representative has refused to hold public hearings on her proposal for agricultural trade liberalization until after an agreement has been reached in December, when GATT negotiations conclude. However, comments can still be made in the form of a letter to Hills.

In a letter to Hills, the Center for Rural Affairs stated that to alleviate the financial deficit, subsidies should be based on the volume necessary to support a family and not on the unlimited volume of production. This system allows for an overhead uniform support up to a volume of production sufficient to support a family-sized farm. Targeting small- and moderate-sized farmers who depend on a farm income with program benefits would foster economic diversity in rural communities. At the same time, production of larger farms would decrease as a result of reduction of production incentives to those not in need of government assistance.

"The biggest stumbling block in the GATT negotiations is over export subsidies," said Annette Higby of the Center for Rural Affairs. The United States dropped its insistence on a complete elimination of agricultural export subsidies while proposing to cut up to 75 percent in domestic farm programs.

"The United States will face increasing pressure to give in to the European Community on export subsidies. The significance of this for the U.S. would be the loss of a level playing field, which Secretary of Agriculture

Clayton Yeutter has been promising for years," said Higby. "We're concerned they will accept a bad agreement on agriculture without bothering to get in return even minimal exemptions that would protect rural communities in this country." When GATT negotiations conclude during the first week of December, a trade liberalization pact could evolve. If this pact evolves, trade ministers of the 92 participating nations will make the final judgment. The U.S. can accept or reject the trade pact on an up or down vote without making any changes.

Exon: 'A Very Bad Bill'

In addition to the letter sent by the Center for Rural Affairs, eight senators and ten congressmen wrote to Hills asking her to hold hearings on the proposed agriculture trade liberalization. The letter stated "it was the intent of Congress that persons likely to be affected by proposed trade agreements be given an opportunity to respond to proposals tabled by the President."

"Senator Kerrey is receptive to farmers' concerns and so is Senator Exon," said Higby. Both senators were among those who signed the letters sent to Hills. The final budget agreement reached in Congress on Oct. 26 included a Farm Bill which will cut price support payments to farmers by 25 percent. Senators Kerrey and Exon voted against the 1990 Farm Bill.

"This is a very, very bad bill which will devastate agriculture. I predict this bill will send farmers into another tailspin along the same magnitude they faced in the early part of

Continued on page 11

Confused By Choices For NRD? Reader Offers Suggestions

by Glenn Pollock

In last month's Observer, we discussed some flaws in the process of electing candidates at-large. Reader Glenn Pollock has studied the choices for a certain at-large election, the Papio Missouri Natural Resources District. He has gathered his own information on the candidates, and it coincides with information compiled by the Audubon Society.

This ballot can be perplexing to even a conscientious voter, because these candidates do almost no campaigning, and most people don't have any idea of who stands for what, yet the list of their names often takes up half of the ballot or more.

Like many other voters, I have a problem with trying to pick candidates for Papio Missouri Natural Resources District. The NRD board is not just the people that run a few parks. NRD also has a lot to do with soil, water, and natural area preservation and restoration and controls a budget of \$8.8 million. I have taken a personal interest in the NRD because of my interest of preservation of natural areas. I would like to share with you my choices of the best candidates and why.

Our NRD covers the area approximately covering the counties along the Missouri River from South Sioux City to the Platte River on the south. The candidates run from subdistricts but they *all are elected at large*. We all vote in every subdistrict.

My pick of people are as follows.

Subdistrict No. 2

Deanna Frisk and Dennis Grabow

Deanna Frisk is my pick. Frisk has been an active member of the League of Women Voters, and one of her projects was the open meeting laws. In a personal interview she presented an excellent knowledge of the environment.

Subdistrict No. 4

Jim Jensen and Timothy Burke

Neither Burke nor Jensen impress me. They did not return questionnaires sent to them. I would not waste a pencil mark on them.

Subdistrict No. 6

Erik L. Sheers

Sheers is running without opposition. He is another mysterious type who does not answer his letters and has an unlisted phone.

Subdistrict No. 8

Jerry Koch and Rosemary Ridenour

I will support Rosemary Ridenour. She is the incumbent but has demonstrated a good understanding of non-consumptive recreation. Ridenour worked hard while on the board.

Subdistrict No. 10

Bob Bell and Joseph Yeshnowski

Bob Bell is the clear choice. Bell has been a member of the state funding organization during the NRD's 18 years. He has shown a moderate view on the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission supporting the preservationist view.

The best choices again are Frisk, Ridenour, Bell, Spires and Ryan. If readers would like more information about the candidates please feel free to call me at 571-6230.

Subdistrict No. 12

David Spires and Kathleen Veburg

I will vote for David Spires. He has a solid background in education and experience dealing with the environment. During his last four years on the NRD board he has consistently voted on the side of the environment. Spires has given much of his personal time to the NRD and the position on the board is unpaid.

Subdistrict No. 14

Stephen Barry and William Mann

I cannot find information about Stephen Barry. I will vote for William Mann, who has been with the NRD board since 1974. His voting record has been reasonable and he showed support for the Missouri River Corridor Project.

At Large

Mike Ryan and Barbara Wagner

Mike Ryan is the clear choice here, because he understands the need for habitat preservation and creation. He has experience working with government agencies as an official of a public employee union. After a personal interview with Mike I feel he will be the type of board member who will listen to the concerns of his constituents.

Barbara A. Wagner has not answered two letters and has an unpublished phone number so little is known about her except she was top vote receiver. I think people confused her with another well-known female public citizen with the name of Wagner.

O.P.P.D. Candidates

Four candidates are competing for two seats on the O.P.P.D. Board of Directors. The candidates were invited by the Observer to submit essays on the issues facing the district.

Carroll

An edited version of the following statement appeared in the Omaha World-Herald, Oct. 27. Italicized portions were omitted from the Herald.

by Rita Carroll

I am honored to be a candidate in this election for one of the two Omaha Public Power District Board positions.

Unlike the incumbents, I am a former employee who was contracted to work at OPPD. I am quite familiar with OPPD operations and helped to establish the 1990 OPPD Budget in the absence of management personnel. Last April, I chose to resign my affiliation with OPPD to become a candidate for this office without any conflict of interest.

Contrary to the opinions expressed in the World-Herald editorial endorsing the two OPPD Omaha District incumbents, I am seriously concerned about many OPPD District issues and "facts" the voters are not being told about OPPD.

Since OPPD operations are "federally regulated," I will question any of the federal or state authorities when standards are being implemented that are not in the best interest of the ratepayer.

One of my priorities is to protect ratepayer from further rate increases and monumental disasters. I understand the concern of ratepayers. The "customer charge" included in the Omaha Public Power District bill issued monthly is not a charge billed at any time to ratepayers of Metropolitan Utilities District for "being their customer."

Also, the "Fuel and Production Cost Adjustment" charge imposed for years upon ratepayer, better known as a flexible "rate increase," is

Ewing

Submitted by Ewing for OPPD campaign

As a candidate for the OPPD Board of Directors, Ben Ewing has the education, background, experience and desire needed to serve in this position.

As both a residential and small business owner, Ewing understands the impact of increased costs. The ratepayers are a captive audience to the increasing costs of operation. In the last two years electric costs rose 18-20%. Much of this increase was forced on ratepayers as fuel cost adjustments.

According to Ewing, the community wants OPPD to be an efficient operation delivering reliable and dependable services at the lowest possible cost. The greatest potential for savings is the day to day operation of the utility.

One comment Ewing has heard over and over again, from small business owners, is the difficulty in doing business with OPPD. The bid process used by OPPD should encourage the growth of business throughout the communities served. Ewing believes that OPPD can, through a dedicated effort, encourage growth by creating a process where small businesses can compete the same as big business and, whenever possible, keep customer/owner investments in Omaha and Nebraska.

Wear

by Frank Wear

I am interested in being elected to the O.P.P.D. Board of Directors because I believe I can give service to the Omaha community and I have the time to do so.

I am interested in holding rates down and have helped do so, never having voted for a general rate increase. While serving as O.P.P.D. treasurer in 1987, I helped to obtain the first across-the-board rate decrease in 20 years, and I will continue to insist on the lowest possible rates. We have recently decreased rates two percent. I believe I have used a sensible business-like approach and have helped solve problems

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s Describe Goals

the Omaha Public Power District Board. They
their platforms. Three of the four responded.

just recently being credited to OPPD customers. I have researched in-
formation about this FPA charge, and I will continue to bring this un-
necessary expense to the attention of ratepayers.

*Ironically, the editorial stated incumbents Eugene Mahoney and
Frank Wear returned \$4 million to the public in the form of lower
rates, and have solved problems at the Fort Calhoun nuclear plant. We
are left to wonder what problems they solved at the plant and why
rates were raised this year.*

*Coincidentally, no one has mentioned the \$122 million loan-debt
incurred by OPPD last year that will eventually skyrocket rates. Nor
did anyone, including the editorial writer, mention the hundreds of
thousands of dollars wasted on advertising expenses solely overseen
by incumbent Eugene Mahoney. No one mentioned Frank Wear, who,
like Mahoney and all the other incumbents, voted to increase his
wages as a present board member. No one mentioned the budget for
the "Security Upgrade Project" at our Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power
Plant that was severely over spent during 1989 that continues to leave
Energy Plaza and other OPPD work sites without adequate security
personnel to ensure our safety.*

All of this is at the expense of ratepayers.
I would also like to urge every voter to attend an OPPD Board
meeting prior to an election and see the participation and attendance
record of incumbents who simply expect to be re-elected.

I will be accessible and accountable to the ratepayer as a board
member of this public power service organization.

I welcome anyone with a concern about OPPD to contact me any
time.

Though not opposed to the continued use of nuclear power, Ewing
understands the need to make this operation a safe and efficient one.
"I believe there may be concerns among the community that the
utility may be shirking its responsibility for the safety of the commu-
nity and the utility employees. I want to be certain that we are living
up to that tremendous responsibility."

Ben Ewing believes the Omaha Public Power District must look
beyond the technology of today and seek alternative methods of
managing resources that meet environmental and production goals
while maintaining a stable rate base. This forward vision must
consider and encourage growth in our community. "I know the cost
of utilities is a factor in business planning. We must ensure that our
rates are competitive."

Ewing intends to be available to the ratepayers and their issues and
concerns. Ewing views the job of an OPPD director is to know what's
going on and to ensure, above all, that all actions taken by OPPD are
in the interest of the ratepayers/owners and the company. The only
special interest group represented by Ewing is that of the ratepayers/
owners.

With the support of Omaha voters, Ewing believes he can bring a
common sense approach to the business of OPPD.

between ratepayers and the O.P.P.D.

Omaha Public Power District has a good dedicated Board of
Directors at this time. They work things out together for the benefit
of the ratepayers and the company. I believe, if you check our record,
you will find it business-like and fair, with a broad understanding of
many issues by its Board members. A community-wide perspective,
a understanding of power industry financing, and a knowledge of the
vital role that low cost public power plays in the economy of eastern
Nebraska are important. I hope I have displayed these qualities as a
Board member.

Determined Daub Wages A Cantankerous Campaign

*The following was excerpted from The Des Moines Register,
October 21, 1990. The headline the Register gave the story
was "No holding 'pit bull' Daub back in Nebraska's U.S.
Senate scuffle.*

by Kenneth Pins

Early on, Daub sought to establish that this race would
mark the dawning of the post-negative politics, where low-
road tactics become the issue rather than the method, or so it
was to seem.

Daub on April 30 had signed a "Pledge to the Voters of
Nebraska" that promised he would not run a negative cam-
paign.

Then he attacked Exon for refusing to sign it.
At the time, Exon said he doubted that Daub really meant
what he had pledged. And he added, "If they start in on it, I'm
going to hit them over the head with a two-by-four."

In Exon's mind, they now have started in.
Recently, former Texas senator John Tower was in Ne-
braska on Daub's behalf, and he said that Exon has "the
reputation in Washington of being one of the two or three
biggest boozers in the Senate."

Exon enjoyed a 75 percent approval rating in a poll this
fall, and Nebraska reporters said Tower's attack on the sena-
tor's character didn't appear to be a spontaneous outburst. He
made the charge three times in three Nebraska locations on the
same day.

Daub expressed surprise, but after reflection, said maybe
Exon ought to apologize to Tower for the way Tower's
personal life was used to derail his bid to become secretary of
defense. Further, Daub has refused to apologize.

"Oh, heavens no. Why should Hal Daub apologize for
something he didn't say?" said Daub press secretary Alan
Meyer. "We had no idea whatsoever that (Tower) was going to
bring this up."

Daub's task is made more difficult by the image he was left

with after his 1988 campaign. "'He's got a certain
attitude," said former Exon campaign manager Julid
Erickson. "He's in your face when you talk to him."

There are other problems for Daub. He took a "no
taxes" pledge and then found his president wavering
on the issue. The continuing budget problems in
Washington have given Exon an excuse to put off
debating his challenger.

To really draw a distinction, however, Daub has
sworn off political action committee money and has
cast Exon as the embodiment of all that is wrong with
the PAC-financed Congress.

There's a slight hitch with that approach, too. Daub
has taken a million dollars in donations over five
previous elections.

To hear Daub tell it, he was given a rare opportunity
for introspection when he lost in 1988, and he had an
epiphany about the influence of PAC money. "So-
crates said a life unexamined is not worth living,"
Daub said.

To hear Exon tell it, that's baloney.
No one has ever accused Daub of being lazy, how-
ever.

Though his voice was hoarse from collecting one
vote at a time from rural Nebraska earlier this year,
Daub struggled gamely to get his Donald Duck im-
pression just right for a boy whose parents had sidled
up to Daub at an Omaha restaurant.

Finally, the parents had had enough. "OK, we'll
vote for you," they said.

Those who have seen Daub believe he has the drive
and the ability to turn this into an interesting campaign
yet. And he badly wants to be a U.S. senator.

What happens if he loses again?
"I'm only 49," Daub said.

Correction!

In last month's Observer, after carefully explaining why we think at-large elections are unfair,
we recommended that people vote against incumbents as a way of leveling the playing field.
Unfortunately, when we listed the candidates in the appropriate races, we omitted two asterisks
identifying incumbents. Here is the correct list.

Douglas County's At-Large Candidates

Approximately one third of the seats on the utility boards are rotated every two years, and one half of the seats
on the Douglas County Board. This year OPPD has two contested at-large seats, MUD has two, and the Douglas
County Board has three.

MUD Board

At-large, vote for up to two
Bill Cavanaugh*
Barry Nelson
Mark Doyle
John McCollister*
Outside Omaha**, vote for one.
Joe Cascio*
Don Krupa

OPPD Board

At-large, vote for up to
two
Rita Carroll
Eugene Mahoney*
Ben Ewing
Frank Wear*
North district**
Dennis Jorgensen*

Douglas County Board

All at-large, vote for up to
three
R.J. Brown
Steve McCollister
Dan Chambers***
Steve Rosenblatt*
Mike Albert*
Walter M. Calinger

*Incumbent

**This person must live outside Omaha. Since only one seat is so designated, it is not an at-large election.

***Withdrawn since ballots were printed

Deregulation Pays Off for Airlines, Not Labor

This article was originally published in Labor Notes, October 1990.
by Kim Moody

By most indicators, the airline industry has seen remarkable growth during the past decade. U.S. airlines flew 54 percent more revenue-earning miles and took in 109 percent more revenue in 1989 than in 1980.

Yet this takeoff has been anything but smooth. A dozen years of deregulated growth has produced an industry in which the future of half its major operators is always in doubt.

The struggle at Eastern culminated a decade of labor concessions and punished one flagrant labor-abuser. But the competitive forces unleashed by deregulation around the world point toward a new round of turmoil.

Mergers and Markets

In the second half of the 1980s, the major airlines developed a three-part competitive strategy in the fight for national market share. Mergers increased the size of most; the hub system positioned them in profitable markets; and ownership of or agreements with regional and commuter lines extended their reach into smaller markets.

The number of airlines grew rapidly in the first few years of deregulation. But most of the new entrants could not compete with the existing major lines in the most profitable markets. Of 77 airlines that entered the industry after 1978, 60 went out of business or were swallowed by larger companies.

By 1989, the top three major carriers -- American, United and Delta -- controlled 47 percent of all passenger miles flown, 52 percent of the operating revenues and 73 percent of the operating profits. The disproportion in the top three's share of revenue and profits is due in part to the hub system.

Hubs and Competition

The largest 28 hub cities account for about 70 percent of all paid passengers. In eight of these cities, a single airline now accounts for at least three-quarters of all passengers.

Hubs act as transfer points to major routes. They need not be located in a heavy traffic center like New York or Chicago so long as they provide increased access to the more profitable routes.

Thus, American expanded from Dallas and Chicago to new hubs in Nashville and Raleigh/Durham; United from Chicago to Washington, D.C.; and Delta from Atlanta to Salt Lake City, Los Angeles and Dallas.

Minneapolis-based Northwest, which traditionally flew west and to Asia, gained routes to the south and east when it merged with Republic and established hubs in Detroit and Memphis. Continental also became a major player when it absorbed Frontier and People Express, gaining hubs in New York and Denver.

But Eastern, Pan Am, TWA and USAir remained largely bound to the increasingly saturated markets of the eastern U.S. This

intensified competition in their traditional markets, while hurting their ability to compete nationally.

To funnel passengers from smaller cities through their hubs, many of the majors bought or made agreements with regional or commuter lines to "feed" their hubs. The 50 biggest regional and commuter lines, which control 90 percent of that market, have such arrangements.

Together, the hub and feeder systems have become a means of competition for the most profitable routes. These strategies have been further reinforced by computer reservation systems that tie the larger majors and their associated regionals to travel agents, who sell 80 percent of all tickets.

Competition and Debt

The high market concentration of the top major lines did not cut down on competition for the most profitable routes. After rising significantly through 1987, average fares -- after accounting for inflation -- began to drop in the late 1980s, with 92 percent of fares discounted by 1989.

Expansion, on the other hand, has been expensive. Capital expenditures in the late 1980s ran above \$6 billion a year for the industry, compared to between \$3 billion and \$4 billion in the early 1980s. About 57 percent of that came from corporate cash flows, compared to 71 percent in the late 1970s. The rest had to be raised in financial markets.

Equipment replacement has also become imperative as the average age of the U.S. commercial fleet grew to 12.5 years in 1988. By early 1990, the industry had orders for new jets worth \$130 billion.

From 1986 through 1989, the major airlines spent more than \$1 trillion on mergers and buyouts, much of this financed by debt.

As a result, the airline industry had a much higher proportion of debt to the companies' capital value (equity) than most industries -- 84 percent compared to an average of 48.6 percent.

With traffic growing, those airlines grabbing higher market shares were able to afford the debt and even lower their debt to capital ratios. The others, however, saw their debt burden grow.

In 1989, Eastern declared bankruptcy. After a year-and-a-half strike by the Machinists, the company is headed for the auction block. Continental's debt is nearly equal to the value of its capital, while TWA and Pan Am have debts exceeding their capital.

Enter the World

Air transportation has always been international, but until recently the airlines of one nation were not allowed to operate in the domestic market of the other. The growth of international travel, the trend toward privatization of national airlines in Europe and the Third World, and the imminent deregulation of air transport in Europe in 1992 have all

created the basis for the internationalization of competition.

U.S. airlines expanded their international routes by 82 percent from 1980 to 1989. To help penetrate foreign markets, U.S. airlines have made marketing agreements with various European companies; for example, United with British Air and Delta with Swissair.

But foreign carriers are buying into the U.S. market. For example, SAS recently bought controlling interest in Continental Holdings (formerly Texas Air).

The stage was set for increased competition in early 1990 when the Department of Transportation permitted overseas carriers to service cities in the U.S. even where they don't have non-stop flights.

Now U.S. carriers will compete with foreign airlines in both domestic and overseas markets. This is certain to bring a new round of restructuring to the industry.

Labor Route

All of the airlines have tried to pass the costs of competition and expansion off on their employees. Union busting, wage cuts, two tier wage scales and lost working conditions have all been used to bring down labor costs.

As a result real wages in the industry have fallen. Allowing for inflation, flight attendants' average monthly earnings dropped about 15 percent from 1984 to 1989. Pilots lost 4 percent for captains and 18 percent for first officers. The real hourly wages of mechanics fell about 15 percent, and those of ground and ramp workers by more than 20 percent.

Airline workers went from being the third highest paid workers in 1979 to 17th in 1988.

For many, work loads also increased. The number of mechanics per plane at the major

airlines fell from 18.8 percent in 1982 to 16.9 percent in 1987. While the number of passengers carried by the majors increased by 44.5 percent from 1984 to 1989, the number of flight attendants rose only 29.1 percent and ground workers by 35.9 percent.

The employers' offensive paid off. Labor costs as a percentage of the operating costs of all major and national airlines fell from 41.5 percent in 1978 to 33.8 percent in mid-1989.

The patchwork character of union representation and bargaining, which is done by craft, allowed the employers to whipsaw the different unions. Rarely did the unions stand together against management's take-back demands.

The crucial step toward greater unity taken in the first several months of the Eastern strike collapsed when the pilots and flight attendants ended their strikes in November. A proposal by Eastern pilots for an industry-wide "suspension of service" was squelched by their union's leadership.

In terms of strategy, most unions went their own way. ALPA officially adopted an employee buyout strategy, as did all the unions at United and Eastern.

What Next for Labor?

The 1990s open with the unions still in disarray and somewhat shellshocked by the Eastern strike. At the same time, some unexpected jolts have hit an industry already heading for more competitive restructuring.

Fuel prices soared in late 1989 and early 1990, by 30 percent in January alone. With the U.S.-Iraq confrontation in August, they took another leap. A two-year plateau in domestic passenger traffic was followed by a

Continued on following page



Few Reasons For Blacks to Support Either Major Party

determined by those who have or can raise the most money -- and, often, by those who can sling the most mud.

A few political neophytes assume an intransigent posture that voting is the solution to all problems. Such people are, at best, apologists for this elite political system. Millions do not vote because millionaires control this country. On the local level, for example, Ben Nelson, a candidate for governor, refuses to reveal his annual income.

Duty implies obligation, and obligation should be reciprocal. Yet, given their plight, African-Americans have a duty to ignore those who have ignored them. The recent rise of increased racism, in large part encouraged by the policies of the Republican Party and the veto of a watered-down civil rights bill, the packing of the Supreme Court with conservative ideologues, and the emergence of ex-Klan member David Duke of Louisiana within the Republican political spectrum are all causes for alarm. Nevertheless, Freeman sees the Republican Party as a viable alternative to the Democratic Party.

Anyone who studies political history knows both parties have not fully embraced African-Americans. We must learn about politi-

cal parties and act accordingly. Our biggest mistake is that too many are deluded with the notion of inclusion while we are merely systematically excluded. Taking it a step further, how can one fight in the belly of the octopus?

It was sad that Freeman obscured his arguments with anachronistic quotations from one of history's biggest Uncle Toms -- Booker T. Washington. By cloaking his arguments with support by an infamous character, Freeman proves we are in two different leagues. Moreover, arguing against quotas and affirmative action while being a member of the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission shows his ideas are contrary to his actions.

I, too, caution African-Americans to avoid carpetbaggers and bootlicking scaremongers. I am a lifelong Nebraskan (rather, an African-American living in Nebraska). The fall from grace of the recent top homeboys, both Negro Republicans -- Larry King, Jr. and Dubois Gillium, one in prison and the other facing that prospect -- illustrates that something is wrong with the Negro-Republican picture.

The Republican Party is not a panacea for the plight of African-Americans. Granted, the Democratic Party has taken too many free rides from the backs of blacks. I will not take

such a docile posture that this vote/no vote charade is any solution to the ominous contradictions African-Americans face during election time.

In order for African-Americans to go forward, they must close ranks and clean their own houses. To expect an enemy to do so is pure rhetoric and ludicrous. It is difficult to

find a sliver of truth in the hodgepodge of Freeman's contradictory arguments. There will always be dogmatic Negroes whose ulterior motives are self-aggrandizement. The best way to deal with them is to give them a dog biscuit and a pair of red slippers and they will continue to bark the party line. Anyone who endorses a corrupt patronage system is not well. Need I say more?

Farmers Lose Big in 1990 Farm Bill

Continued from page 7

the 1980s," said Senator Exon.

Senator Kerrey voted against the bill in part because of the section on nutritional guidelines. "The sense that I had was that what we were providing was inadequate. Most of us knew that there were children in Amer-

ica who weren't going to develop because their nutritional needs weren't going to be met," said Kerrey. But the main reason Kerrey gave for his opposition to the Farm Bill was because it failed to "provide adequate net farm income."

Deregulation of Airlines Followed by Uphill Battles for Labor Force

Continued from previous page

summer of unusually slack demand in 1990 as prices rose on many routes.

The industry showed losses in 1990; however, these were not evenly distributed. Pan Am and TWA accounted for 80 percent of the major airline losses in the first quarter. Former star performer USAir lost nearly \$67 million in the first quarter. American, United and Northwest showed much smaller losses.

On the other hand, according to the industry's own press (Aviation Week and Space Technology, April 23, 1990; Air Transport World, January 1990), significant shortages of pilots and mechanics have given these workers and their unions some leverage.

Recently negotiated wage settlements of 4 percent to 5 percent a year at American, Northwest and USAir were matched by non-union Delta and Continental. These are, of course, very modest increases which only match current inflation.

The lower tier of major airlines will most likely resist anything even so modest or demand enormous concessions in return, as indicated by the last Pan Am contract with the Transport Workers Union.

With international competition heating at

home and abroad and fuel costs rising, not even shortages of skilled workers are likely to help airline workers recover what they have lost under deregulation -- unless a new strategy for bargaining in the industry is worked out.

IAM Takes First Step

In April, the International Association of Machinists took a long-needed step toward a new approach when it called for a master contract for all its units, and alliances with other unions in the same companies. The resolution also called for putting the right to honor picket lines in the contract.

While implementation has not even started, this is certainly the direction all airline unions must take if they are to stop the whipsawing and divisions that have given employers the upper hand for a decade.

To establish industry-wide standards for all crafts, genuine coalition bargaining, not just "alliances," between unions representing the same occupations will be needed as well. Finally, councils of representatives from all the unions at a carrier should work toward coordination, common expiration dates and other measures that maximize unity.

Reagan Looted, But Bush Hid Damage By Going to War

Continued from page 7

had turned into a First Going, leaving an incoming administration to pick up the pieces. The United States had been changed from a creditor nation into the greatest debtor.

Ronald Reagan left after having looted the U.S. treasury; made the rich richer, the poor poorer, cut federal spending for social programs, increased spending for a non-productive military establishment (economically, a nation's military never produces, it only consumes), and the only item balanced into the black was his personal bank account. He was handsomely rewarded by friends who had profited during his eight years in the White House.

Now we are afflicted with a second popular president, who uttered an honest statement when he declared supply-side was voodoo economics. Perhaps it was on the basis of that honest statement -- a demonstration of political integrity marvelous to behold -- that he became the Republican standard-bearer, shouldered the burden, picked up the pieces, took off running with the torch of liberty held high.

Being an honest man, George Bush soon realized he couldn't do anything both popular and effective in reducing the national debt and decided to do the next best thing: get his mind and those of U.S. citizens off the debt problem by going to war. He knew how to pluck the patriotic strings (his presidential campaign of flag-wrapping was a big help) and now he leads us, waving a gun instead of carrying a torch.

Congress gave him a "Gulf of Tonkin" resolution, approving his sending the troops to Saudi Arabia, even while everyone understood the day of reckoning was fast approaching when something would need to be done to stave off the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings automatic cuts across the board in government spending.

Now, having been postponed twice, the day of reckoning has finally arrived after months of paralysis. This bruising and politically damaging budget battle took away the last remnants of "superness" remaining from those halcyon days of the Cold War and a popular president who could do no wrong.

Bishops Lavish Five Million For Pro-Life Ads...

by Arthur Jones and Joe Feuerherd
Reprinted with permission from the *National Catholic Reporter*

When -- with 342 bishops, 53,000 priests, 20,000 parishes, 100,000 women religious, more than 230 Catholic colleges and universities, 7,000 parochial schools and more than 50 million laypeople -- the U.S. bishops still can't persuade people that abortion should be outlawed, there's either something wrong with the message or something wrong with the messenger.

The bishops think there's something wrong with the messenger. So they've just chosen a new one, and it's a poor choice.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops announced April 5 its plans to hire (using privately raised funds) the international public relations firm of Hill & Knowlton to peddle a moral message that the bishops themselves cannot get across. (They've also hired Ronald Reagan's favorite public palm reader, pollster Richard Wirthlin, to help them determine exactly what their message could be.)

With this action, taking on Hill & Knowlton's high-powered flacks to spread their pro-life gospel, the bishops have given a new meaning to the phrase "the morality of the marketplace," for their new messenger has no moral content whatsoever.

In Catholic terms, what public-relations firms practice is simony, what the late Archbishop Paul Hallinan called "simony of the intellect," selling one's mind.

What does Hill & Knowlton sell? Anything the customer is prepared to pay for.

According to the authoritative Washington Representatives 1989, Hill & Knowlton flacks for:

-- Upjohn Corp., manufacturers of two abortion-inducing drugs, and the subject of an 18-year-long boycott by the pro-life movement.

-- Honeywell Inc., which in addition to being the Planned Parenthood Foundation, produces military hardware that would seem to put the bishops' "conditional acceptance" of nuclear deterrence at risk as well as endanger their commitment to the "consistent ethic of life." Other military contractors represented by Hill & Knowlton include General Electric and Monsanto.

-- Playboy Enterprises Inc.

That's not all.

There's Exxon, producer of Alaskan coastline oil spills. The Indonesian government, invader and oppressor of tiny (and largely Catholic) East Timor, relies on Hill & Knowlton for advice, as does the Turkish government, which recently scuttled a Senate resolution to commemorate the Armenian genocide.

And then there's the Tobacco Institute, which maintains (with Hill & Knowlton's help?) that there is no conclusive evidence to link cigarettes with cancer or heart disease.

And now, to join this company, the U.S. Catholic bishops.

New York Cardinal John O'Connor, chairman of the bishops' pro-life committee, said the bishops had to take this step because the pro-choice side has its own hired guns that have effectively presented their side of the debate.

And the bishops, according to their spokesperson, have been assured by Hill & Knowlton that there is no conflict between their anti-abortion agenda and the firm's 1,500 other domestic clients.

The mainstream pro-life movement is thrilled. Dr. John Wilke, president of the National Right to Life Committee, said the bishops' taking on Hill & Knowlton is a sign of "seriousness" on their part. A spokesperson for the Christian Action Council said he saw "no problem" with the bishops' action. "If I was in their position, I would hire the best," he said.

But Pax Christi national director, Benedictine Sister Mary Lou Kownacki, who says the bishops should be consistent on life issues, is

waiting for the day bishops hire some high-powered talent to lobby "for legislation that provides women and children economic assistance" or for measures "to stop first-strike weapons."

What's going on here is marketing morality. But marketing, by which we mean advertising and public relations, is devoid of moral content. The father of U.S. modern advertising, Albert D. Lasker, said "there is no mystery to the mastery of the market." John Gunther in his book on Lasker, *Taken at the Flood*, continued, "The customer has to be aggressively enticed, his resistance deliberately broken down."

Public relations? That was founded in the United States by "Poison Ivy" Lee, the man called in to polish John D. Rockefeller's image after police, under Rockefeller's influence, had machine-gunned striking miners in Rockefeller's employ.

Lee was so successful -- Rockefeller became known for the tight-lipped sincerity of

photographs that showed him doling out dimes to Depression-era waifs -- that Robert Benchley wrote, "Mr. Lee has devoted his energies to proving, by insidious leaflets and gentle epistles, that the present capitalist system is really a branch of the Quaker church, carrying on work begun by St. Francis of Assisi."

The Catholic bishops are supping with the devil using a long spoon. One of their own explained this to them, and they have forgotten. "There is a simony of the intellect as well as a simony of goods," said Atlanta's late Archbishop Hallinan. "We're at the point in history where this simony is the temptation of the educated man."

Warned Hallinan, "To sell one's mind -- this is perhaps close to the ultimate simony, for reparation is almost impossible to make."

The bishops are dealing with an industry in which the practitioners are prepared to sell their minds and talents to the highest bidder. That, unfortunately, is the bishops' latest message.

...But Elderly Religious Want For Basics

by Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON -- A Catholic sister who was my homeroom teacher in the two years I spent in parochial high school on Long Island occasionally would send my classmates and me into the day with the thought: Love God and worry about nothing else.

That wasn't much help getting me through first period geometry, but the rest of the day, and every one since, I found myself agreeing with Sister Mary Franceline. She lived by that counsel herself, as did the 20 or so other sisters residing in the Immaculate Heart of Mary convent across the street from St. Dominic High School.

This Saturday evening in Washington, some Catholic sisters and their friends -- including members of the Senate and House -- are coming together to offer a minor revision: Love God and worry about nothing else, except a secure retirement.

The meeting is the fourth annual fund-raising dinner of SOAR--"Support Our Aging Religious." Large numbers of the nuns -- and lay brothers, too -- who staffed the church's schools, hospitals and other social programs are now retired. They are broke and caught in actuarial traps with no adequate pensions, annuities, retirement benefits or dividends.

Nearly two-thirds of the nation's 112,000 sisters are over 60 years old. The average age is 66, with the median rising annually. More than 1,000 sisters are believed to be on welfare. The distress ranges from convents lacking funds for wheelchairs or infirmity equipment to a religious order in New York that couldn't pay a mortician for the increasing number of funerals for elderly sisters.

SOAR, a nonprofit organization founded in 1986 and based in Silver Spring, Md.,

raised \$548,000 in its first three years and dispensed it to 55 religious congregations. More than 100 grant applications are in for 1990 funding, from fire safety improvements, therapy equipment, infirmity beds and wheelchairs to nurse call-bell systems.

A common image of nuns from the old school is that they were repressed spinsters skilled only in knuckle-rapping. That's not my recollection. The sisters I knew in the 1950s, or met last month, are as selfless as any group of altruists can possibly be.

Elderly nuns are in retirement binds because, unlike the male hierarchy who controlled the collection plate, the sisters put neither their trust in money nor their money in trust. They were told to think of penance, not pensions. Instead of salaries, they had salvation. They worked for less than the widow's mite, educating everyone from the convent school daughters of Henry Ford II to the poorest of the black poor in mission schools in the Mississippi Delta.

Today's church hierarchy is breaking no promises to the retired sisters. It never made any. Pastors of parishes gave them nests -- convents -- but no nest eggs. As teachers in Catholic schools in the 1940s and '50s, the sisters were cheap labor. They did take a vow of poverty but it's turned out to be a vow of destitution, with few new takers. Fewer than 2 percent of today's sisters are under 30, which means the elderly have few young hands to help them. The convent of the Holy Ghost has become the ghost-town convent. Younger women are willing to be of service but not in Vatican-run structures that limit decision-making to men.

Pre-Vatican II Catholicism -- stolid, vocation-rich and with no one sassing Rome -- had

little warning of the economic crisis that lay ahead in the 1980s and '90s for its religious orders. Money may talk but the person of faith mustn't listen. It said so in scripture. "I have counted all else rubbish so that Christ may be my wealth," St. Paul wrote. In St. Luke: "Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for life does not consist in possessions."

From the literal interpretation of those and similar texts, the specter of a false conflict was raised: either almighty God or the almighty dollar was to be worshipped.

The current need, according to SOAR, is for more than \$5.6 billion. The Catholic bishops, who issued a recent pastoral letter on how to reform the U.S. economy, are beginning to look at the economy of the convent. For the past two years, the third Sunday in December has been set aside for an annual collection for religious order retirement needs -- \$26 million was raised in the first year, \$22 million the next. The last sum translates into \$221 a year for all sisters over 50.

In the Senate and House, the sisters have won all but divine intervention in their crisis. Four powers who were taught by Catholic nuns in grade school -- Thomas Foley (Sisters of the Holy Name), George Mitchell (Ursulines), Pete Domenici (Sisters of Charity) and Dan Rostenkowski (Sisters of Notre Dame) -- have kicked in generously themselves and have written a joint letter asking others also to pony up to SOAR.

If all the alumni of Catholic schools turned out as well as those four -- turned out well because they remember and are grateful -- all the way to heaven for the sisters may still be heaven.

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'Helms: Admirable Man of Unwavering Principle'

by Colman McCarthy

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- Recalling the time he came out of the closet and joined the Republican Party after 28 years as a registered Democrat, Sen. Jesse Helms said in 1985 that the "vast majority of Republicans are conservatives." The vastness was such, he warned, that if his soul mates were not offered what he saw as the three essential conservative principles -- "honesty, frugality and hard work" -- they "will desert or simply stay home, or they will look for those who do articulate those principles."

Some of that deserting, home-staying and looking elsewhere appear to be on the rise in the last days of Helms' re-election campaign for the Senate. A Charlotte Observer poll, completed Oct. 18, put Harvey Gantt, the Democratic candidate, with an eight-point lead -- 49-41 -- over Helms. Gantt, once a long shot, now has a good shot.

Helms is helping, by becoming a parody of himself. The Senate's most mindless gay-basher, who has a mini-career hounding homosexuals for what they do in private, now attacks them for public acts: contributing

money to Gantt's campaign. That has the nation's arbiter of bedroom morals in a fury. A Helms television ad warns voters that lesbians and gays have been kicking in to Gantt's campaign. In a speech in Fayetteville, Helms announced that "They're taking up money in gay bars in Washington, D.C., San Francisco and New York."

Two years ago, in a venting about "this homosexual crowd," Helms the moralist was Helms the medical expert: "Let me tell you something about this AIDS epidemic. There is not one single case of AIDS reported in this country that cannot be traced to sodomy."

The Nobel Prize in medicine has gone to people with lesser claims on discovering the causes of diseases. That sodomy is the only origin of AIDS comes as news to patients who become sick from unclean needles, contaminated blood or in utero infections. James O. Mason, M.D., the assistant secretary for health in the Department of Health and Human Services, reported in early October that "increasingly, AIDS is a disease that is affecting women and children, our racial and ethnic minority populations, heterosexuals and people

living in smaller cities."

All debates in Washington have three sides: right, wrong and ranting. Helms' vigilance on the Sodomy Watch positions him as a leading ranter. However many votes that may win in North Carolina, it brings him mostly losses in the Senate. In an Oct. 12 debate on AIDS funding, two Helms amendments -- to cut spending on treatment and research -- were defeated 70-24 and 69-23. Such "vast majority" conservatives as Sens. Orrin Hatch, Alphonse D'Amato, Connie Mack and John Warner all rejected Helms' bizarre claim that AIDS spending is "far out of control."

Helms has an addiction to blathering overstatement. He has called food stamps "one of the most outrageously expensive and most abused programs in the history of the country." He smeared Martin Luther King, Jr., as a communist dupe and, feeling a pinched reactionary nerve, attacked Ronald Reagan for ignoring the full-moon right: "The people who fought and bled and died for Reagan have not been listened to. He's got to remember who took him to the dance." In eight years, Helms never figured out that Reagan

couldn't remember much of *anything*, on or off the dance floor.

In foreign affairs, the senator has the softest of hearts -- for dictators and racists. He praised the murderous Pinochet regime of Chile and lamented the overthrow of Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua. The apartheid government of South Africa is "a friend," with economic sanctions "a kick in the teeth."

To Helms, the core of America's problems is the media: "The real threat to freedom, the real threat to freedom of speech and the real threat to our constitutional system is on our TV screens every evening and on the front pages of our newspapers every day."

Perhaps to have some sport with that, the progressive Charlotte Observer recently ran at the top of its op-ed page a fawning pro-Helms column by James Kilpatrick, titled: "Jesse Helms: An Admirable Man of Unwavering Principle."

Helms' tirades against media unfairness are as consistently unfounded as all his others. Strung together, they have made him the most irrelevant member of the U.S. Senate.

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Dentists Sue ADA Over Fluoride, Mercury Claims

by Dennis Spaeth

CLEVELAND -- With anti-fluoridationist John Yiamouyiannis, Ph.D., sounding the charge at a Sept. 20 press conference, 40 dentists filed suit against the ADA for breach of contract and fraudulent misrepresentation.

Though the ADA had not been officially served with the complaint at presstime, the Association will develop a response in the coming weeks and intends to "vigorously attack the lawsuit," said Mary Logan, ADA Assistant Executive Director for the Division of Legal Affairs.

"The ADA will defend its integrity, reputation and legal rights in this case," said Logan. "We firmly believe the plaintiffs' claims are unfounded and that the law does not support their position."

Filed in the U.S. District Court in Cleveland, the two counts listed in the class action suit stem from the ADA's alleged misinformation to its members and others concerning water fluoridation and mercury amalgam.

The plaintiffs say in the suit that the ADA has made several allegedly false statements, including:

- that artificially fluoridated water does not cause dental fluorosis;
- that dental fluorosis is not an adverse health effect;
- that fluoride is not a genetic hazard;
- that fluoride does not cause or accelerate the growth of cancer;
- that human epidemiological studies purporting to show an association between water fluoridation and human cancer are invalid because the data in question were not ad-

justed for age, race and sex;

-that children living in communities with artificially fluoridated water have experienced a reduction of 40 to 60 percent in the prevalence of tooth decay as a result of fluoridation;

-that there is no scientific basis for doubting the medical safety, effectiveness and practicability of water fluoridation;

-that there is no scientific basis for recommending the removal of mercury amalgam from non-allergic patients for the purpose of preventing chronic mercury poisoning, and

-that the representations of the ADA on the benefits and safety of mercury amalgam are so reliable that the removal of them from non-allergic patients at the suggestion of a dentist concerned about mercury toxicity constitutes an improper and unethical act.

The complaint further claims that the reputations of the plaintiffs have been impugned as a result of the ADA's alleged misinformation and as a consequence of several other alleged actions, including:

- pressuring the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to increase the maximum contaminant level of fluoride to eight parts per million;
- altering a U.S. Public Health Service press release to imply that water fluoridation is responsible for a dramatic reduction in tooth decay; and
- disparaging, intimidating and discrimination against ADA members who oppose water fluoridation and mercury amalgam.

In addition to requesting certification as a class, the dentists' complaint seeks a declara-

tory judgment that the ADA is liable to the plaintiffs for the alleged misinformation and actions; a judgment for an unspecified amount of monetary damages -- including punitive damages -- to compensate the plaintiffs for the alleged harm they have suffered; an injunction enjoining the ADA from disparaging, intimidating or discriminating against the plaintiffs and from continuing to disseminate the same alleged misinformation; and an order requiring the ADA to admit and correct its alleged ADA to admit and correct its alleged "wrongdoings."

During the press conference announcing the lawsuit, Dr. Yiamouyiannis -- who is not a party to the suit -- cited the National Toxicology Program's fluoridation study as one reason for the lawsuit.

Dr. Yiamouyiannis told reporters that according to a recent Chemical and Engineering News article, "they're bumping this [the study's rating] up to 'some evidence' of a link between fluoride and cancer."

An NTP official, however, refuted this claim.

Dr. Yiamouyiannis, in an interview with the ADA News, later said he meant to say that "there now appear to be attempts to move it from equivocal to some evidence."

Results of the NTP study were inconclusive, ruled as "equivocal evidence." The study showed that four male rats out of 130 developed bone cancer after regularly consuming 79 parts per million of sodium fluoride in drinking water during a two-year experiment.

The average recommended level of fluoride in drinking water for humans is one part

per million. The legal limit for water containing natural levels of fluoride is four parts per million.

Though not an official spokesman for the plaintiffs, Dr. Yiamouyiannis said he is assisting the attorney, Philip Manogg, who filed the suit for the dentists. In addition, the Safe Water Foundation, of which Dr. Yiamouyiannis is president, is funding the lawsuit with help from some of the plaintiffs.

While indicating he would like to see the case settled out of court, he noted, "I'm not hopeful about it."

"I have heard a couple of claims that the ADA is going to dig its feet in here," he said, adding, "I would have to see that -- in the sense that even if they know that they're wrong, they're going to go ahead and defend themselves."

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The preceding article does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor



Ten Great Labor Stories the Media Are Missing

Literally hundreds of good stories about workers at home and abroad for uncovered. Here are 10 stories the media have missed or need to cover on a more regular basis.

1. Samson and Delila

After an extraordinary organizing drive at these two drapery plants in rural Georgia, a majority of the workers, mostly low-paid black women, voted to join the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in April 1988. The company, S. Lichtenberg and Co., has refused to bargain with the workers, prompting them to take their campaign to other cities. A dramatic story about the courage of workers and the weak protection in the labor laws has received quality local coverage from the Atlanta Journal and Constitution and others, but a virtual blackout nationally.

2. The Right to Strike

Once accepted as a legal right, the Greyhound and Eastern strikes indicate that U.S. workers -- because of a series of judicial rulings over the last decade -- have virtually lost the right to strike. When they do strike, they can be permanently replaced, and bankruptcy laws allow companies to avoid any damage. Where is the reporting on the erosion of a right that many workers around the world are finally winning?

3. Union Busters

In the last decade, a once-small business of "management consultants" trying to keep companies union-free has blossomed into a multibillion dollar business that is changing the face of labor/management relations. Union-busting consultants walk the fine line of the law -- and often cross it -- in order to intimidate workers from voting for a union. The early handful of pioneer consultants has been replaced by a more sophisticated blend of legal minds from blue-chip law firms and advisers who operate behind the scenes in what one calls "total war" against unions.

4. The Raiding of Pension Funds

Dozens of companies have terminated healthy pension funds, pocketed millions of dollars and replaced them with inferior annuities that give lower benefits than might have been possible under the previous plan. As a result, thousands of workers are facing smaller pensions. Since pension contributions are deferred wages, doesn't the excess belong to workers? Shouldn't it be used to enhance pensions? This issue has recently received coverage, but the controversy is growing.

5. Workers Safety and Health Committees:

Who should police the workplace, an

understaffed government agency like OSHA, or workers? The growing debate has already fostered ground-breaking proposals in the New Jersey legislature calling for European-style worker/community safety and health committees with enforcement powers. Any paper or television station that puts a report on workplace safety and health stories could harvest regular front-page/lead-item stories.

6. Trade and Labor Rights

The trade wars have been covered extensively -- but with only passing mention of the repression of workers abroad that leads to low-priced imports. Virtually no one has looked at the U.S. government's refusal, for political reasons, to invoke laws stripping trade rights from countries with poor labor records. It's a scandal waiting to be reported.

7. The AFL-CIO's Foreign Policy:

The AFL-CIO spends millions of dollars -- more than it spends on campaigns to reach and organize new workers in the United States -- spreading its doctrine of anti-communism throughout the world. In effect, the AFL-CIO is an important arm of U.S. foreign policy, and often finds itself sharing common cause with conservative, anti-union Republicans and repressive regimes around the world. An active debate has been raging inside the labor movement for at least five years on the AFL-

CIO's role overseas. It's ripe for investigative journalism.

8. The Union Democracy Movements

Teamsters for a Democratic Union has weathered stolen elections, beatings, shootings and murder in an effort to democratize the union. TDU and the ongoing struggle in the Teamsters leading to the 1991 union election is one of today's most exciting and dramatic labor stories. There's been some national coverage of New Directions, the reformist group in the United Auto Workers, but it's rarely covered regularly, and most articles focus on leaders rather than on rank-and-file members.

9. Abortion and the AFL-CIO

In an unheralded alliance, the anti-abortion movement has made common cause with the anti-union National Right To Work Legal Defense Fund and some union leaders to pressure the federation against taking a pro-choice stand. So far, the pressure has succeeded.

10. "Union, Yes"

The AFL-CIO has poured millions of dollars into a Madison Avenue-style advertising blitz aimed at improving organized labor's image. Has it worked, or is the federation wasting money better used to field more organizers?

Travel Tip: When In Iraq, Be Saddam's Guest

Dear Lulu:



knows. It's sad, especially since the little HeadLady is trying her darnedest to show she has a heart as big as all outdoors--and a new wardrobe. Should you drive over them? Well, that's up to you and your prejudices. Either way, it was nice of you to notice them.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I see that Saddam Hussein is keeping 2,000 Americans as "guests" in Iraq and Kuwait. I stayed at a guest house in Detroit once and really loved it. How do I get on the list to go to Iraq? Is there a toll-free number?

Love, A Traveler in Tecumseh.

Dear Traveler:

The only similar "guest" houses I can think of were the Gulag and my mother-in-law's den. The toll-free number is 1-800-NUT-CAKE. Take plenty of reading material.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I am so happy they have finally found John Doe--and in Liberia! I loved the movie

where Jimmy Stewart played him on his trip to Washington. And now, where is his wife Mary?

Love, A Fan in Fremont.

Dear Fan:

You seem to be confusing several things. First, the recent murder was of Samuel Doe, President of Liberia. Second, it was Mr. Smith who went to Washington. Third, Doe's wife's name is Doe Doe. And, fourth, please don't write to me again.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

My brother was always the favorite in the family. He always got to eat what he wanted. But, now we're grown and I'm happily married and he just can't stand it. He can't keep a job, he has an eating addiction and personal hygiene problem. But now he has started parting his hair in the middle because he thinks he's going to take over the Pat Sajak Show now that Pat is fired. The family is aghast. What can we do?

Love, Chapped in Chambers.

Dear Chapped:

God has made few mistakes in his time, but included amongst the few are Sandy Duncan, guacamole and the Pat Sajak Show. Never trust a man who parts his hair in the middle. I suggest you give your brother some of your old frocks. This will divert his attention long enough to allow you and the family to move out of town. Good luck.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I think you are very unfair in saying all those nasty things about Sandy Duncan--how she looks like Peter Pan with a thyroid condition; how she's the only thing worse than frozen bowels; or how you scream at the Wheat Thin commercials, "Look at me, look at me!" I think it's disgusting. Why don't you do what I do--try to look just like her, the little cutie! Wouldn't it be grand if I could be Sandy Duncan's dresser and got to dress her up every day, just like a Barbie? What do you think would look good on Sandy Duncan?

Love, Sandyfan from Sand Creek.

Dear Sandyfan:

A pit bull.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I keep seeing a lot of caterpillars crawling across the road when I'm driving my car. I am a gentle person by nature and I try very hard to miss them. But yesterday by missing one, I hit a tree. What are these things and should I be hitting trees to avoid them?

Love, A Lover of Life in Laurel.

Dear Lover:

Those little caterpillars are Republicans, crawling away from Kay Orr and her image as an ice box. Where they're headed, no one

Strike Date For November 17

Nurse/Therapist: I Will Organize to Resist War

by Peg Krach

The author is a Ph.D. in Family Relations and Human Development. She is a nurse educator and family therapist.

War is imminent. Two months ago, a military source informed me that an attack was planned for Nov. 16th.

The same source later informed me that Army Chief of Staff, General Carl E. Vuono met with top advisors on Oct. 25th and the decision was made to begin war on Nov. 18th. The likelihood of a mid-November strike date is reinforced in the Oct. 29, 1990 issue of Newsweek which states, "To some Western analysts, (that) suggests a short, sharp campaign beginning in late November and end-

ing, they hope, before Christmas. I think the optimal time for a U.S. move is Nov. 17, in the darkness of the new moon," says a Western ambassador in Baghdad."

Each day the news becomes more ominous. A war is about to occur which may be more dreadful than anything that the American people have experienced in the past. According to the Oct 29, 1990 issue of Newsweek, The U.S. toll alone could reach 5,000 dead and 15,000 wounded over 10 days -- roughly equivalent to the average number of American casualties in Vietnam in an entire year. Additionally there will be thousands of civilian casualties.

'Of Course It's About Oil'

President Bush, after trying out several variations on different themes, settled on the deployment as a means of preserving our "very way of life." Other rhetoric included "national security," "commitment to the peace and welfare of our friends and allies," "vital interests," "free world," and so on. Most recently, Mr. Bush stated in a speech in Des Moines, Iowa that we were not in the Persian Gulf because of oil but to stop the naked aggression of Saddam Hussein. However, honest analysts acknowledge that had Kuwait been a country in Africa and without oil, not a single American soldier would have been deployed to protect it. Some of the President's men have been more honest, for example, Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher, who, like President Bush, was an oilman before coming to Washington, states, "Of course it's about petroleum. Crass or not, it's oil that keeps everybody going." Had the United States heeded the lesson of the oil crisis of the early 1970s, the Bush administration might not have felt compelled to what it did in early August.

A member of the 101st airborne division shared with me that he has been assigned to a 450-bed hospital which is going to support the casualties of one division. A colleague stated that her husband has been assigned to another division, which is supported by an 800-bed hospital. Here in Omaha, informed sources say that administrators of state hospitals have been instructed to free-up as many beds as possible by Nov. 11.

A blood bath will occur for a number of reasons. For example, Harry G. Summers of the Army War College warns that America's vaunted high-tech advantage -- including the Army's night-vision equipment and the M-1 Abrams tank -- has never been tested in extended battle. Our sons and daughters are also being asked to fight with outdated equipment, exemplified by tragedy that took place this week on the U.S. Iwo Jima. This antiquated vessel on its way to the Middle East had a tragic accident when a steam pipe exploded and 10 people died.

A Dramatic Change of Life

How can our armed forces survive battle besieged by so many overwhelming obstacles?

I had the opportunity to spend five days with six young officers of the 101st Airborne Division, including my daughter. Their firsthand accounts demonstrate the cost of this military action to their lives.

My first impression was that this group was stunned and in a state of disbelief. A year ago they were informed that the army would be cut back by one-third, and five of the group had planned to leave the army in 1991 for parenthood, marriage, and graduate, medi-

cal, and law schools. President Bush's decision to send ground forces to the Persian Gulf without consulting the American people or Congress changed these lives dramatically. They were told to draw up wills immediately and assign caretaking responsibilities of children and pets to others. They were told to dispose of furniture, homes, cars, etc. in preparation for immediate deployment. They were told to leave behind religious items such as Bibles and rosaries, because they would be offensive to a Moslem country. In August, women were even told that they would not be allowed to drive cars or travel unescorted by men. They were told they would be required to wear clothing that covered their arms and legs while in the desert heat in order to abide by the laws of the guest country.

All were asked to go to an unknown destination, for an undetermined period of time, for an unexplained period of time.

'Do Whatever You Can'

I have not been active in many political causes until now, but I am convinced that this war is wrong. I wanted to do something to stop it for the sake of the people I met in my daughter's division, and for all our sakes. I wanted to ask them what I should do, but hesitated at first, not wanting to seem unappreciative of their sacrifice or professionalism. Finally, when I asked them what they felt a concerned citizen like me should do, they answered unanimously, "do whatever you can."

Since then, I have been educating myself about what other concerned citizens are doing. In Omaha, Lee Oleson and Robin Carter organized an "Anti-Intervention Coalition." Five regulars, joined occasionally by friends, of the Faith and Resistance Community leaflet weekly at the Federal Building. Nebraskans For Peace, Pax Christi, the Omaha Central America Response Team, and Youth for Peace all have taken positions opposing military intervention in the Middle East.

I am also aware that the Pledge of Resistance, which opposed U.S. support of the Nicaraguan contras, has reactivated its pledge to mobilize; the Pledge has asked its members to commit to demonstrating at federal buildings all over the country on the day of the invasion. Certain members are also pledging various kinds of civil disobedience.

I plan to make myself available to offer organizational support for the various groups, and to initiate some actions of my own. One possible action would be raising funds to sponsor TV ads using a videotape that another group has made. Another possibility is a teach-in.

My phone number is 402-593-9204.

Only American Citizens Can Prevent Gulf War

by Ramsey Clark

The author, a former U.S. attorney general, is a founder of the Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East. This article originally appeared in USA Today, Oct. 29, 1990.

NEW YORK -- President Bush has rushed 240,000 young Americans to positions of grave danger in the Persian Gulf, and he will have to account to the American people for each life lost. No one else will start this war.

Behind a U.N. fig leaf, and even with arm twisting, four out of five soldiers in Saudi Arabia are American. Because of oil, poorer Americans are being asked to fight and die halfway around the world, for a wealthy few.

So, President Bush, tell us how many young Americans you are willing to sacrifice in this adventure: 25,000? 100,000? How many Arab lives are you willing to take: 100,000? 500,000?

In 1980, then-Vice President Bush assured Robert Scheer of the Los Angeles Times that America could win a nuclear war. His words were, "...you have a capability that inflicts more damage on the opposition than it can inflict upon you. That's the way you have a winner." It is that deadly mind-set that seems determined to crush Iraq.

Calling Saddam Hussein a Hitler is to play the people for fools, demean important history and seek to overwhelm reason with hatred. Iraq is a poor country with a population the size of New York state, not a powerful, industrialized, technologically advanced nation. Iran stopped Iraq in its

tracks and could have defeated it were it not for the backing of the USA and others. We never called Saddam Hussein a Hitler during those eight terrible years of war.

If Iraq has chemical warfare capacity and is working on atomic bombs, the same can be said of a dozen other nations, and some, like Israel, have both.

It is not clear that Iraq killed more people in its invasion of Kuwait than the USA killed in its invasion of Panama. Nor that the USA had a better legal claim for its aggression. Each used superior force, a lamentable but not unprecedented act.

A gulf war would be catastrophic for everyone. Violence and hatred could endure for years. The U.S. and world economies could be wrecked, and the price of oil skyrocket. War in the Persian Gulf is neither necessary nor desirable.

With an imperial presidency, a paralyzed Congress and a jingoistic press, only the American people can prevent this war. President Bush has brought us one step closer to war by cutting off dialogue with Iraq and announcing the deployment of 100,000 additional troops. On Oct. 20, tens of thousands of people in 20 U.S. cities and eight other countries rallied to demand an end to U.S. intervention. Write and call the president and your representatives in Congress every day until we can bring all the troops home.

The people who live in the Arabian Peninsula, under the auspices of an uncoerced United Nations, can settle their differences. Never accept the inevitability of war. Work for peace.